



## **MONTHLY REPORT MAY 2018**

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### **Commercial and Recreational Fisheries**

- Wild commercial fishing effort was strong in the beginning of the month, but slowed down once vibrio season began in mid-May.
- Boats are focusing on blood clams with some oystering this month.
- We sold more than 100 annual recreational shellfishing permits in May, bringing the total sold to date to 404. We also sold 12 seasonal recreational permits in May.
- On May 31, recreational fishing was closed throughout Wellfleet except for the Indian Neck recreational only area.
- Also on May 31, the Lt. Island South area was closed to all shellfishing.

### **Enforcement**

- We continue spot checking catches without incident. We are informing shellfishermen about the importance of tagging properly.
- We have increased our boat patrol and monitoring of vessel catches.
- We educated commercial shellfishermen about Keller's Corner area closed to quahogging.
- A commercial fisherman was observed fishing in Chipman's Cove. He was informed of closure and made to return his catch to the water.
- Complaints were received about various activities, such as boats fishing on grants, wild shellfishermen taking seed for their grants and wild fishermen picking too close to grants. We followed up on all and provided verbal warnings and education where necessary. No infractions were found.
- A fisherman was observed collecting shellfish on a grant. An investigation was conducted, a ticket issued and a week-long suspension recommended to the Board of Selectmen. Grant holders were advised to re-mark their buoys and get all their buoys out.
- The vibrio control plan went into effect on May 19. We distributed log books and conducted exposure and ice checks on both wild fishermen and grant holders, and at pier during transfers. We are educating each about the rule requirements for icing, tagging, shading and exposure and getting everyone into good compliance.
- An area in Blackfish Creek by Lt. Island was found to be full of derelict shellfish gear, much of it tagged. WSD called the grant holders and asked them to clean it up before Memorial Day weekend, which they did.
- One recreational catch was confiscated and returned to the water. We made three people collecting oysters and clams in a garbage bag on Mayo Beach dump them back.
- We pulled one fisherman out of the mud in the Herring River area.

### **State and Town Relations**

- Assistant Constable John Mankevetch and Deputy Constable Chris Manulla attended an EPO meeting with Lower Cape constables on May 1.
- The Board of Selectmen approved the renewal of our Mass. Dept. of Public Health variance to allow transfers of market-bound oysters to take place at the pier during vibrio season for 2018-2020.

- We began exploring two scientific partnerships with Mass Audubon. One is to conduct quahog spawning monitoring at Keller's Corner where we transplanted quahogs, and the other is to track oyster spat recruitment in Chipman's Cove, which was requested by Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries in order to provide data on which to base the agency's decision on the end date for allowing Chinese hat spat-collecting devices Chipman's Cove.
- The Shellfish Advisory Board (SAB) voted not to recommend that Wellfleet Shellfish Dept. (WSD) take part in the contaminated quahog relay, but consented that the department had done good work and that we were free to do it if we felt strongly about it. We decided that we would do a small amount (up to 250 bushels) to test it out this year.
- SAB and WSD held the annual beach clean-up on May 12, and 1,360 pounds (.68 tons) of aquaculture gear and trash was collected from the bay beaches, including Duck Harbor. The most-found items were clam nets and balloons.
- We received twelve applications for grant #01-05 by the due date of May 24. Eleven qualified for the lottery.
- The Chatham Shellfish Dept. came and visited our old Shellfish Offices to discuss the potential of the site for an upweller. They thought it would be worth exploring, but also observed that we had other potential good options available as well.
- The Constable and Asst. Constable John Mankevetch assisted Barnstable County and Roger Williams University with their annual quahog sampling survey.

### **Propagation**

- We conducted three quahog dragging days with a commercial dragger in the deep waters off Keller's Corner. We harvested a total of 81 bushels of mixed quahogs, about one third of which were moved to the Indian Neck recreational area, while the rest were transplanted in the inshore area of Keller's Corner commercial only area.
- We met with an upland land owner about hosting our propagation activities on his intertidal bottom, right next door to our current bed. He is discussing the opportunity with his family.
- The cultch barge bid was opened and distributed.
- We are working with Bay Sails to get our old barge going.
- We are cleaning up the gear from our old propagation bed.

### **Education & Outreach**

- Asst. Constable John Mankevetch and commercial fisherman Brett Morse participated in a TV filming on clamming in Wellfleet for "The Cook's Cook" TV show out of N.H. and online.
- Constable Nancy Civetta was featured in *Edible Cape Cod* as one of four female shellfish constables on cape Cod.
- Nancy contributed a guest column for the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce's Blue Economy initiative that will be published in the *Cape Cod Times*.
- Two commercial and one recreational Shellfish Crier were distributed.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Nancy Civetta  
 Shellfish Constable